

manufacturing facilities and background checks for employees handling these applications and cards.

In my view, the Federal Government must be a good working partner with the States, and this amendment, which provides funding for the program, is a step in the right direction. We must proceed with this program on a partnership concept of States and the Federal Government working together. For that reason, I am pleased to learn that the National Governors Association supports this amendment. This program is an important step in achieving some type of identification that will help America feel more secure in our daily requirements to identify ourselves and to otherwise conduct our life here at home.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I seek recognition to offer my support for the amendment to be offered by Senator CASEY with regard to homeland security grant timelines. This amendment would lengthen the amount of time available to obligate funds provided in fiscal year 2008 under the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Rail and Transit Security Grant Program from a maximum of 36 months to a maximum of 48 months.

I am advised that several transit agencies have encountered problems obligating homeland security grant funding within the current timetable, particularly for large and complex projects such as installing underground emergency communications networks in subway tunnels.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority, SEPTA, in particular, has encountered problems which have thus far prevented it from being able to utilize federal homeland security grant dollars to install an emergency communications network in its 20-mile subway tunnel system which runs underneath portions of the city of Philadelphia. The absence of a communications system capable of functioning underground severely limits the ability of SEPTA and first responders to deal with a potential emergency in Philadelphia's subway tunnels and does not provide an adequate level of protection for the traveling public.

Specifically, SEPTA claims that a 3-year period is not sufficient time to coordinate regional interoperability issues with the city of Philadelphia and the surrounding first responder agencies. It is my understanding that preliminary engineering requirements and the time associated with procuring the necessary technology further compound the problem. Finally, SEPTA claims that it does not receive enough homeland security grant funding in a 3-year period to complete such a complex project.

This amendment will provide SEPTA and other transit agencies in similar predicaments with additional time to plan, coordinate, secure technology for and fund important and complex projects such as underground communications systems. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to 55 young Americans who have been killed in Iraq since April 28, 2007. This brings to 777 the number of soldiers who were either from California or based in California who have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. This represents 21 percent of all U.S. deaths in Iraq.

PFC Jay-D H. Ornsby-Adkins, 21, died on April 28 in Salman Pak, Iraq, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle and then encountered small arms fire. Private First Class Ornsby-Adkins was assigned to D Company, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, GA. He was from Ione, CA.

First LT Travis L. Manion, 26, died on April 29 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. First Lieutenant Manion was assigned to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SPC Astor A. Sunsini-Pineda, 20, died on May 2 in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Specialist Sunsini-Pineda was assigned to A Company, 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS. He was from Long Beach, CA.

SGT Felix G. Gonzalez-Iraheta, 25, died May 3 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire. Sergeant Gonzalez-Iraheta was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. He was from Sun Valley, CA.

Cpl Charles O. Palmer II, 36, died May 5 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Corporal Palmer was assigned to 8th Communication Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, II MEF, Camp Lejeune, NC. He was from Manteca, CA.

PFC William A. Farrar Jr., 20, died May 11 in Al Iskandariyah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Private First Class Farrar was assigned to the 127th Military Police Company, 709th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, Darmstadt, Germany. He was from Redlands, CA.

SPC Rhys W. Klasno, 20, died May 13 in Haditha, Iraq, of wounds suffered

when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Specialist Klasno was assigned to the 1114th Transportation Company, Bakersfield, CA. He was from Riverside, CA.

SGT Steven M. Packer, 23, died May 17 in Rushdi Mullah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his dismounted patrol encountered an improvised explosive device. Sergeant Packer was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY. He was from Clovis, CA.

PFC Victor M. Fontanilla, 23, died May 17 in Iskandariya, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Private First Class Fontanilla was assigned to the 725th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, AK. He was from Stockton, CA.

SSG Christopher Moore, 28, died May 19 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Staff Sergeant Moore was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from Alpaugh, CA.

PFC Joseph J. Anzack, Jr., 20, died in Al Taqa, Iraq. Private First Class Anzack was initially reported as Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown on May 12, 2007, when his patrol received small arms fire and explosives. Private First Class Anzack was assigned to D Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY. He was from Torrance, CA.

PFC Daniel P. Cagle, 22, died in Balad, Iraq, died May 23 of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit in Ramadi, Iraq. Private First Class Cagle was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA. He was from Carson, CA.

CPL Victor H. Toledo Pulido, 22, died May 23 in Al Nahrwan, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Corporal Toledo Pulido was assigned to 3d Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Mechanized, Fort Benning, GA. He was from Hanford, CA.

SPC Gregory N. Millard, 22, died on May 26 in Salah Ad Din Province, Iraq, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Specialist Millard was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC. He was from San Diego, CA.

SGT Clayton G. Dunn II, 22, died on May 26 in Salah Ad Din Province, Iraq, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Sergeant Dunn was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC. He was from Moreno Valley, CA.